

I. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 176-184 are pending in the application. Claim 176 is independent.

Claims 176-184 were rejected as being unpatentable over JP 08-103948 and Bellehache, for the reasons discussed on pages 2 - 7 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

Independent Claim 176 recites a novel, non-obvious combination of structure and function whereby, inter alia, the cooling pin, upon insertion into the molded article, is within the molded article but **spaced away from the first region**. In JP '948, upon insertion into the molded article, the article rests on the pin. This important structural and functional distinction was succinctly stated by Examiner Jill Heitbrink in her "Reasons For Allowance" issued at the conclusion of prosecution in related U.S. Patent No. 6,558,598 :

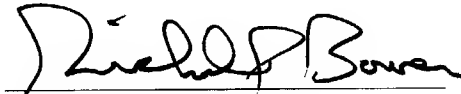
The prior art does not teach or disclose the cooling of injection molded articles by removing the article from the mold, inserting a cooling means a predetermined distance into the article and the cooling means is spaced away from the article at the predetermined distance, and transmitting a cooling medium from the inlet at the predetermined distance through the outlet to from an inlet in the molded article and an annular outlet defined by the outer surface of the cooling means and the inner surface of the molded article. **In JP 8-103948, the article sits on the cooling pin and/or surface 348 until the cooling air is transmitted to the interior of the article causing the article to rise up from the surface 348 and the cooling pin.** (emphasis supplied)

Note that JP '948 was also successfully distinguished during the prosecutions of related U.S. Patent Nos.: 6,171,541; 6,461,556; 6,475,415; 6,475,422; and 6,488,878.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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